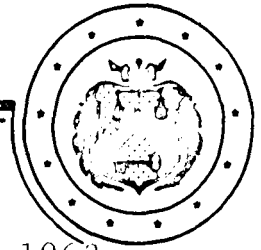


TREASURY DEPARTMENT



WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 8, 1963

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINT DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES ANNUAL TRIAL OF THE COINS

Miss Eva Adams, Director of the United States Mint, will appear at the Philadelphia Mint on February 13 before a special commission named by the President yesterday for the Annual Trial of the Coins.

This historic ritual, dating back to the past century and a half in the United States has its roots in thirteenth century English law requiring an assize of the coins. In those early days the trial took place only when a chest known as the pyx, stored in Westminster Abbey, was filled.

Upon the recommendations of Alexander Hamilton legislation was enacted by the United States in 1792 making mandatory a yearly examination of the coins by persons not connected with the Mint.

The commissioners who will meet at Philadelphia next Wednesday are:

Mr. George J. Boardman, of Pawtucket, Rhode Island
Mr. Selig S. Burrows, of Great Neck, New York
Mr. Matthew Hale, of Alexandria, Virginia
Dr. Warren C. Jones, of Forest, Mississippi
Mr. Maxwell J. Lieberman, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mr. Robert R. Poston, of Arlington, Virginia
Mr. A. G. Schemmer, of Albuquerque, New Mexico
Mr. Elston G. Bradfield, of Highland Park, Illinois
Mrs. Oscar Dodson, Grosse Pointe, Michigan
Mr. J. Madison Hunnicutt, Jr., of Nashville, Tennessee
Mr. Ray O. Lefman, of Kansas City, Missouri
Mr. Alvin G. McNish, of Chevy Chase, Maryland
Mr. Matthew H. Rothert, of Camden, Arkansas
Mr. Leonard W. Stark, of Chicago, Illinois

The Commission will be expected to complete its examination in one day. Serving as an ex-officio member will be a scientist who will bring with him weights, calibrated against the standard weights in the Bureau of Standards, for use in testing the coins. The Judge of the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Assayer of the United States Assay Office in New York will also assist.

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Over 77 million ounces of silver were used for silver coinage in 1962. More than 616 million silver coins were produced. From this production approximately 62,000 silver coins have been reserved for the annual trial. A representative sample will be examined to make sure they are of the proper weight and fineness.

In making a half dollar with a standard weight of 192.9 grains the allowable tolerance is 4 grains over- or under weight; on a quarter, 3 grains and on a dime 1.5 grains. As to the silver-copper alloy of the coins, the standard is that 900 parts out of a thousand must be silver, though the Mint is given a tolerance of 6 parts, either way.

The Mints in Denver and Philadelphia throughout the year send samples of the coins into Washington where they are weighed and assayed to make sure of their weight and silver content. The Trial of the Coins is the official test by private citizens which assures the public that its coins have been struck in accordance with the law.

NOTE: THE PRESS AND TELEVISION SERVICES WILL BE ADMITTED
TO THE PHILADELPHIA MINT, 16TH & SPRING GARDEN
STREETS AT 10:00 A.M. ON FEBRUARY 13.

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